



LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

May 13, 2008

The Honorable Board of Directors
Los Angeles County
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

**AMEND THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY'S PROJECT LIST
PURSUANT TO SECTION (3), SUBSECTION (d) OF THE SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD
PARKS PROPOSITION OF 1996, ALLOCATE SPECIFIED EXCESS GRANT FUNDS
AVAILABLE TO THE FIFTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT FOR THE ACQUISITION
OF LAND IN THE VERDUGO MOUNTAINS AND
AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATION OF AN EXCESS FUNDS GRANT
(FIFTH DISTRICT - 3 - VOTE MATTER)**

SUBJECT

These actions will allocate \$1,750,000 in Specified Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District to enable the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to purchase 226.87 acres of vacant land in Verdugo Mountains. As done previously, prior to the acquisition, the parcels will be added to the project list of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Further, the parcels have been reviewed for their potential impact on County sanitary landfill sites, roads and highways, and conformity with County planning documents.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find the proposed actions exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, for the reasons cited herein.
2. Amend the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's project list, most recently amended by your Board on September 25, 2007, to add the acquisition of 226.87 acres of land in the Verdugo Mountains in the City of Los Angeles.

3. Allocate Specified Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District in the amount of \$1,750,000 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the Verdugo Mountains Acquisition Project.
4. Authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the above acquisition project when applicable conditions have been met and to administer the grant as of the date of this action and pursuant to procedures in the Procedural Guide for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy).

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Approval of the recommended actions will add five parcels of land (226.87 acres) in the Verdugo Mountains in the City of Los Angeles adjacent to La Tuna Canyon Park to the Conservancy's project list, as well as contribute \$1,750,000 toward the acquisition of these parcels. The parcels are located in the Tujunga Wash area of the Los Angeles River watershed and will protect core habitat and a key trailhead into the Verdugo Mountains.

The total cost of the acquisition of the parcels identified in Attachment A is approximately \$2,750,000 which includes the proposed \$1,750,000 in Specified Excess Funds as well as approximately \$1,000,000 in City of Los Angeles Proposition K funds.

Since the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is acting on behalf of the Conservancy, the five parcels needed to be added to the Conservancy's project list. The list was most recently amended by your Board on September 25, 2007, when your Board approved funding for the Coastal Slope Trail Acquisition Project in Malibu.

It is also recommended that the Director of Parks and Recreation be authorized to award a grant to the MRCA, when applicable conditions have been met, such as grantee qualifications and consistency between the projects and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, grantee compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the project, and to administer the grant under procedures previously approved by your Board.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The proposed actions further the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goal No. 1 (Service Excellence), Goal No. 4 (Fiscal Responsibility), Goal No. 5 (Children and Family Well-being), and Goal No. 6 (Community Services), by contributing toward the acquisition of additional open space land for habitat protection and trails accessibility in the Verdugo Mountains in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grant, in the amount of \$1,750,000, is budgeted in the Fifth Supervisorial District portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space Districts' Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition requires that funds provided to the Conservancy be expended "solely for projects approved by the Board, pursuant to such criteria as the Board may, in its discretion, adopt," provided that those projects are identified in the Conservancy's annual work program transmitted to the Governor and State Legislature and as may be amended from time to time, after a noticed public hearing. Following these procedures, the acquisition projects in Attachment A were added to the annual work program in March of 2008.

The 1996 Proposition further provides that your Board may disapprove a project within the boundaries of a city only upon a finding that the acquisition or improvement may impact access to or use of a site identified or proposed for present or future sanitary landfill purposes. In addition, your Board previously has adopted procedural requirements requiring a review of proposed Conservancy projects relative to their impact on existing or proposed highways, and their consistency with General or Area Plans.

The proposed acquisition project meets the procedural requirements of the 1996 Proposition and has been reviewed in accordance with the Conservancy's revised Procedural Guide, adopted by your Board on June 17, 1997.

The Department of Public Works has found that the project would not negatively impact current or potential future County sanitary landfill sites (Attachment B).

The Department of Public Works did, however, find in its review of the impact on any planned County roads or highways that one parcel submitted for its review impacted a secondary highway (Attachment C). La Tuna Canyon Road, adjacent to Parcel APN 2572-028-028 is a secondary highway. Approximately 84 feet of right-of-way on the parcel along La Tuna Canyon Road, currently dedicated, is consistent with the County requirement of 80 feet for secondary highways.

The Department of Regional Planning researched the list of proposed parcels for acquisition, consulted with County Counsel and noted no inconsistencies or lack of conformity between the parcels and their status relative to the applicable County planning documents, since the parcels are located in the City of Los Angeles (Attachment D.)

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining each fiscal year the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended grant would be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District from Excess Funds available for specified projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director of Parks and Recreation would be authorized to award grants when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Grant Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director and pursuant to the Conservancy's Procedural Guide approved by your Board in 1997 and used since then for the administration of similar grant projects. Prior to execution, the Grant Project Agreement will be reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES

Your Board's approval of this recommendation will authorize the Director to award a grant to the MRCA for the Verdugo Mountains Acquisition Project. It will have no impact on any other District-funded projects.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All public agency projects funded by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District are required to comply with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. The MRCA is the lead agency for the Verdugo Mountains Acquisition Project.

The proposed administrative actions are not subject to CEQA in that the actions do not meet the definition of a project according to Sections 15378 (b)(4)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines, because the actions are administrative activities for government grants which by their terms do not involve any commitments to any specific projects which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one conformed copy of this action to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Projects Division, and to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Wicker for", written over the printed name "Russ Guiney".

Russ Guiney
Director, Parks and Recreation

Attachments (4)

RG:IV:LB:REGIONALPARKANDOPENSAPCEDISTRICT(VERDUGO MOUNTAINS BL)

c: Chief Executive Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors (22)
County Counsel

**Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority
Verdugo Mountains Acquisition**

<u>Parcel No.</u>	<u>No. of Acres</u>
2572-028-028	12.53
2572-026-024	9.34
2572-026-006	40.00
2572-027-031	160.00
2572-027-019	5.00
Total	<u>226.87</u>



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DONALD L. WOLFE, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

966 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone: (626) 458-3100
<http://dpw.lacounty.gov>

Attachment B

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE

EP-2

January 10, 2008

TO: Russ Guiney
Director of Parks and Recreation

Attention Ilona Volkmann

FROM: Donald L. Wolfe
Director of Public Works

James W. Hoagland

**SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
REQUEST FOR NEW ACQUISITION PROJECTS**

As requested on December 19, 2007, we reviewed the proposed property acquisition by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Our review was limited to the impact of the proposed acquisition on the solid waste management system in the County of Los Angeles. Based on the information provided, we found that the proposed acquisition of the properties listed below will not negatively impact the solid waste management system.

Parcel Number
2572-028-028
2572-026-024
2572-026-006
2572-027-031
2572-027-019

If you have any questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Fred Rubin at (626) 458-3500, Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

SA:kp
P:\SecResponse Memo January 7, 2008.doc

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS DIVISION



DEAN D. EFSTATHIOU, Acting Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone: (626) 458-5100
<http://dpw.lacounty.gov>

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

March 11, 2008

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE:

LD-4

TO: Russ Guiney
Director of Parks and Recreation

Attention Ilona Volkmann

FROM: Dean D. Efstathiou *Dean Efstathiou*
Acting Director of Public Works

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY'S REQUEST FOR A NEW ACQUISITION PROJECT

As requested, we reviewed the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's list of proposed acquisition projects as it relates to construction of any highway depicted on the County of Los Angeles Highway Plan. The following are our comments:

1. The properties in question are in the City of Los Angeles; therefore, no County highways are directly impacted.
2. The County Highway Plan does show that La Tuna Canyon Road adjacent to Parcel No. 2572-028-028 is designed as a secondary highway. The Assessor's Map shows that approximately 84 feet of right of way exists along La Tuna Canyon Road. This is consistent with the County requirement for secondary highways (80 feet). However, we called the City and they indicated that their normal dedication requirement for secondary highways is 90 feet. This would imply that three (3) feet of additional dedication may be required by the City at some point in the future. If you have any additional questions regarding the City's requirements, you may contact Ali Mahass of the City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering, at (818) 374-4626.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Burger at (626) 458-4943 or by e-mail at sburger@dpw.lacounty.gov.

HW:la

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Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning
Planning for the Challenges Ahead

Attachment D



Bruce W. McClendon FAICP
Director of Planning

Date: January 15, 2008

To: Ilona Volkmann
District Administrator
Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District

From: Richard Claghorn *RC*
Principal Regional Planning Assistant
Land Development Coordinating Center
Department of Regional Planning

**REGIONAL PLANNING DEPARTMENT REVIEW: Santa Monica Mountains
Conservancy's Request For New Acquisition Projects, properties within Verdugo
Mountains, January 2008**

Pursuant to your request, my staff has researched the proposed parcels (APN: 2572-028-028, 2572-026-024, 2572-026-006, 2572-027-031, 2572-027-019) for acquisition.

All of the properties within the acquisition proposal are located within the boundaries of the City of Los Angeles. Therefore, the proposed vacation is located outside the jurisdiction of Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning. We are not able to provide any zoning-related information regarding the acquisition proposal. Please contact the Planning Department of the City of Los Angeles.

Should you have any questions, please contact me or Ms. Alice W. Wong of my staff at (213) 974-6470.

RC:aw